Moving Forward with the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California

California Association of Bilingual Education Conference

Traci Albee, Administrator
English Language Proficiency and Spanish Assessments for California
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TOM TORLAKSON
State Superintendent of Public Instruction

We Need Your Input

To participate in two brief surveys for the English Language Proficiency Assessments for California (ELPAC) and the California Spanish Assessment (CSA), please download the QR code app.

Transition from the California English Language Development Test (CELDT) to the ELPAC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>2016–17</th>
<th>2017–18</th>
<th>2018–19</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ELPAC Pilot Testing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Field Test Administration (No scores reported)</td>
<td>ELPAC Summative (Spring 2017)</td>
<td>ELPAC Initial (Fall 2017)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Operational Administration (Scores reported)</td>
<td>CELDT</td>
<td>CELDT Initial</td>
<td>ELPAC Summative (Spring 2018)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

3
The ELPAC Paradigm

ELPAC Development Process

ELPAC Development Process (cont.)
Next Steps

• The ELPAC Regulations went back to the SBE in March 2017 and are now moving forward to the Office of Administrative Law for final approval.
• Writing and Speaking Range Finding—spring 2017
• Initial Assessment FT Window—August 29–September 22, 2017
• Standard Setting for the SA—fall 2017
• Standard Setting for the IA—winter 2018

Rationale for Educator Involvement

• Align the assessments to classroom practices, based on the standards
• Elicit grade-appropriate topics
• Confirm grade-appropriate difficulty of material
• Confirm comprehensibility of directions to students
• Confirm familiarity of terminology to students
• Provide educators a rare “sneak peak” of the assessment
• Provide professional development

Content Review Panel and Bias and Sensitivity Review Panel

• Reviewed new ELPAC items for appropriate grade-level content, language, and pictures.
• Occurred August 1–5, 2016
• Broad representation of California educators
• Recommended changes to the CDE for review and potential approval
California Educator Reflections

“Authentic California voices are valued and heard…”
Adriana Vazquez, Val Verde Unified School District (USD)

“The ELPA emphasizes the importance of having students engage routinely in meaningful interactions…”
Leisa Machado, Turlock USD

[The ELPA] is richer in its representation of different people and experiences…it allows students to feel more included as they may see themselves in the assessment questions.”
Graciela Camacho, Santa Ana USD

ELPAC Field Tests
**ELPAC Field Tests**

- Summative assessment field test: Spring 2017
- Initial assessment field test: Fall 2017
- Includes English-only and reclassified fluent-English proficient students
- Sample field tests, not census
- Participation by invitation
- Test examiners were required to attend a full day of training in February 2017 to administer both the SA and IA FTs.

**Field Test Examiner Input**

- Focus Group Purpose:
  - To collect detailed input on the administration of the FT
  - To gather input on the test examiner training and associated resources
- Summative Assessment FT Focus Groups — April/May 2017
- Initial Assessment FT Focus Groups — Fall 2017

**ELPAC Communications**

- Monthly communications from the CDE to LEA ELPAC Coordinators
- Monthly communications from ETS to LEA ELPAC Coordinators
- Web Sites and Pages:
  - [www.ELPAC.org](http://www.ELPAC.org)
Survey says…
We need your input on transitioning the Information Guide to ELPAC.
• To access the survey, go to the link or QR code below:

Questions?  

California Spanish Assessment
Primary Purposes of California Comprehensive Assessments

The primary purposes include:
- Assisting teachers, administrators, and pupils, and their parents
- Improving teaching and learning
- Promoting high-quality teaching and learning using a variety of assessment approaches and item types.

Development of the High-Level Test Design

- Consulted with stakeholders, including assessment and English learner experts, to determine the content and purpose
- Developed the high-level test design
- Approved by the SBE on September 9, 2016

California Spanish Assessment (CSA) Design Team

- Nationally recognized experts in linguistics, Dr. Kenji Hakuta and Dr. Guadalupe Valdés
- Educational Testing Service, contractor, assessment development experts, psychometricians, and research scientists
CSA Test Purposes(s)

- Measure a student’s competency in Spanish language arts and provide student-level data in Spanish competency
- Evaluate the implementation of Spanish language arts programs at the local level
- Provide a high school measure suitable to be used, in part, for the State Seal of Biliteracy

Benefits for Local Educational Agencies

- Recognize the value of bilingualism and biliteracy
- Develop literacy at a deeper level
- Inform instructional practices and, as a result, increase learning
- View CSA results in combination with English Language Arts (ELA) results
- May be added to Local Control and Accountability Plans

Target Population

The target population will be:
- students receiving instruction in Spanish in California; and/or
- students seeking a measure that recognizes their Spanish-specific reading, writing, and listening skills.
Key Assumptions of the High-Level Test Design

• Aligned with the Common Core State Standards for ELA en Español
• Computer-based assessment
• Assess reading, writing, and listening
• Administered in grades 3–8 and high school
• Accessible to students with disabilities

Key Assumptions of the High Level Test Design (cont.)

• Optional
• Test blueprint will be aligned with general achievement level descriptors
• Fair, valid, and reliable
• No human scoring

Educator Reflections on Test Development

The focus was on all of our students who come from different populations with varying specific needs.

"I feel privileged to learn and understand how the assessment development process works and the amount of time, work, review, and effort that come with it."

"We feel a strong sense of purpose!"

"Brainstorming and making well-informed decisions take time."
Upcoming Educator Opportunities 2017

- July 2017: Item Review Meeting

Submit an application at: http://caaspp.org/reviewers.html

Survey says…

We need your input on student’s experience with technology and access to keyboarding tools in preparation of taking the CSA.

- To access the survey, go to the link or QR code below:

Questions?
Contact Information
English Language Proficiency and Spanish Language Assessments Office
Phone: 916-319-0784
CELDT e-mail: celdt@cde.ca.gov
ELPAC e-mail: elpac@cde.ca.gov
Web site: www.elpac.org
CELDT Web page: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/el/
ELPAC Web page: http://www.cde.ca.gov/ta/tg/ep/
Join the CDE’s ELPAC e-mail list by sending a blank e-mail to subscribe-elpac@mlist.cde.ca.gov.

Contact Information (cont.)
English Language Proficiency and Spanish Assessments Office
Phone: 916-319-0784
Web site: www.CAASPP.org
CalTAC: 800-955-2954